Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2007

Faith Sharing
Readings and Questions for the Weekend of December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Listen to the Word
What image in Isaiah lingers in your memory? What in this reading touches your heart?

Theme
God's kingdom is close—it is Jesus.

Look Into Your Life
Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness?
Question for Youth: John was a prophet who prepared the people for Jesus' coming. How can you be a prophet this week to prepare friends, family, and strangers for the coming of Jesus at Christmas?
Question for Adults: What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?

Monday December 10
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
8:00 - Daily Liturgy - Intention Improved Health of Greg Biegler
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 p.m. – Advent Reconciliation Service at OLBH

Tuesday, December 11
Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
No Daily Liturgy – Fr. Mark's Day Off
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. – Advent Reconciliation Service at the Cathedral

Wednesday, December 12
Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
5:30 p.m. – Daily Liturgy
Intention: Healing of the Sexually Abused
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry
6:00 p.m. – Gatherings of Grace
7:00 p.m. – Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Isaac Jogues

Thursday, December 13
Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. –Giving Tree Gift Wrapping

Friday, December 14
Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

Saturday, December 15
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry & Christmas Boxes
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. - Share Distribution
2:00 p.m. – Altar Server Training
3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
5:00 p.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: OLBH Community
Ministry Schedule
Bread Baker: *Marlys Sears*
Altar Servers: *Celena Sass, Megan & Gina Czmowski*
Blood: *Brenda Czmowski, Bob Sass, John & Cathy Wang*
Body: *John Osnes*
Lectors: *Sue & Steve Colgan*
Sacristans: *John & Cathy Wang*
Ushers: *Joe & Diane Norman*
Choir: *Family Choir*

Sunday, December 16
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
8:00 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Ministry Schedule
Altar Servers: *Brett Beyer, Shannon & Kerry Wilson*
Blood: *Frank Boner, Caitlin Wilson, Kathy Amiotte, Lorinda Collings*
Body: *John Osnes*
Lectors: *Jay Hammerquist, Donna Boner*
Sacristans: *Frank & Donna Boner*
Ushers: *Tom Van Asma, Stan Barber*
Choir: *Regina's Minstrels*

9:15 a.m. – Just Faith Meeting

10:30 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Ministry Schedule
Altar Servers: *Whitney Werdel, Mattias Didriksen, Mary Pulaski*
Blood: *Christine Didriksen, Judy Nelson, Brad & Mary Blauvelt*
Body: *John Osnes*
Lectors: *Pam & Bob Weaver*
Sacristans: *The Blauvelt Family*
Ushers: *Bob & Pam Wentz*
Choir: *Folk Group*

4:30 p.m. – Single Spouses Hors d'oeuvres and Christmas Light Tour

Sparks from Fr. Mark

The Gospel of Matthew Part III

The role of Jesus as a teacher is also highlighted by the inclusion of a number of parables found only in Matthew's gospel, for example, "The Weeds Among the Wheat" (13:24-30), "The Pearl of Great Price" (13:45-46), and "The Workers Hired at the 11th Hour" (20:1-16), to name a few. Matthew portrays Jesus carefully teaching the apostles and the crowd about life in the kingdom and the meaning of discipleship.

Why does Matthew emphasize this image of Jesus as a Teacher? Matthews's community was a mixed community, made up of Gentiles and Jews who had accepted Jesus as the Messiah. As Matthew is writing in the 80s, there is a growing controversy between his own community and Jewish religious authorities. Both Jews and Jewish Christians studied and interpreted the Law of Moses very carefully, but had come to strikingly different conclusions: Jewish Christians, like Matthew, concluded that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God; and Jewish authorities regarded these Christian claims as a misinterpretation of their Scriptures. This controversy in Matthew's day is reflected in the controversies between Jesus and the religious authorities. for example, the scathing "Seven Woes Against the Scribes and Pharisees" (23:1-32). It is important to keep in mind that while there were undoubtedly historical conflicts between Jesus and the religious authorities of his day, the controversies that Matthew was addressing were those of his own day in the 80s. For the benefit of his Jewish Christian audience, and in response to challenges from Jewish religious authorities, Matthew presents Jesus as the authoritative and definitive interpreter of the Law. For example, in his "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus quotes six times the Law in its traditional interpretation, and then adds, "but I say to you..."(5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44). The point: Jesus is greater than Moses who gave the Law!

Not only is Jesus the authoritative interpreter of the Law, he is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. In just twenty-eight chapters, Matthew offers sixty-one direct quotes from the Jewish Scriptures. In forty of those references, Matthew indicates that the passage was fulfilled in Jesus. These explicit references to earlier Old Testament stories of Joseph and Moses are retold as events in the life of Jesus. In the controversy between his own community and the Jewish authorities, Matthew's Jesus emerges as both the authoritative teacher of Scripture and as the fulfillment of Scripture.

Prayer List
Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. Please contact the office if continued prayers are needed.
Improved Health: Joe Creek, Helen Barber, Grant Coffin, Mary Kay Young, Sharon Long, Cliff Meyer, Gertrude Bessie, George Senn, Dorothy Norman, Jim Raba, Karen Weyrich, Dorothy Roseland, Missy Jorgensen, Greg Biegler, & Gladys Doyle
Repose: Mike Cariveau, Bob Biegler, Wilmer Zvonek, & Connie Kinsman

Stewardship December 1 & 2

Loose	$1,850.91
Envelopes	$1,556.00
Votive	$7.25
Student	$50.64
Building	$163.00
Other	$806.00
Total	$4,433.80

Single Spouses Hors d'oeuvres and Christmas Light Tour
Sunday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m.
RSVP to Patty Cariveau 716-5882

Calling All Altar Servers

Training for previous and new servers will be held Saturday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m. here at OLBH. There will be new details to discuss, so all servers will need to attend. If you have any questions, please call Estella Haakedahl at 721-9056.

Middle & High School Registration

If you have not completed registration forms for your middle or high school students, please do so before the next event. Contact Teresa at teresa@olbh.org or 787-5168 with any questions. **The High School Event will be December 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Pancake Breakfast

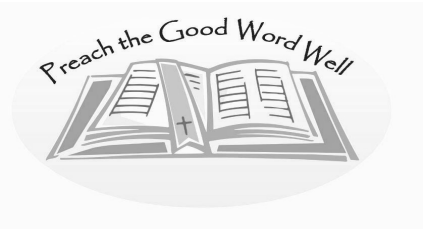
The Knights of Columbus will have their next Pancake Breakfast December 9 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. A new featured item will be scrambled eggs, in addition to our usual pancakes, apple pie filling, sausage, coffee, and juice. Proceeds will benefit Right to Life.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up in the gathering area! Take a tag and buy a gift for someone in need. Please place gifts under the tree no later than Sunday, December 9, with tags attached, but **unwrapped**. All gifts will stay in the Piedmont and Black Hawk area. If you know of someone in our area who is in need of Christmas gifts, please call Judy at 716-4647 or Dorothy at 787-4509.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Mass

Bilingual Mass celebrated by Bishop Cupich begins at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City. All are invited to attend. A potluck meal in the parish hall will follow. Please bring a dessert to share.



Parishioners will be surveyed at weekend masses in early December as part of the diocesan initiative, **To Preach the Good Word Well**. The purpose of the survey is to help us reflect on our understanding of the Word of God proclaimed and preached at Sunday mass. The results of the survey will be made available in January. Thank you for participating.

Matching Grant for Masses for Life

The Diocesan Pro-Life Commission is again offering a matching grant, up to $250, for donations made to the "Diocesan Masses for Life" program by December 31, 2007. Every day, throughout our Diocese, a mass is offered for respect and protection of all human life, from conception to natural death. This program arranges for these masses to be offered and pays the priests' stipends. Your donation allows you to assist with this spiritual endeavor. Please send your donation, marked "Masses for Life" by December 31, to Mary Mitchell, Treasurer, 113 Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Ultreya

Ultreya will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. All Cursillistas are welcome to come and rejoice in the fellowship of old and new friends in Jesus Christ our Lord! Any questions? Contact Diane Ange at 721-3065.

Bella

The movie *Bella* is here at the Rushmore 7 Theater in Rapid City, next to Hobby Lobby! Show times are 4:10, 7:10, and 9:30. It is very pro-life, and very touching. Those who have seen it say it has great impact. So, take your friends—high school and up. We don't know how long it will be here, so please spread the word so it will have a good showing and stay for a long time. For the USCCB review and rating (A-II Adults and Adolescents) go to http://www.usccb.org/movies/b/bella.shtml

The Golden Compass

This movie was released on Friday, December 7. We encourage you to read a review from the USCCB Office of Film and Broadcasting at www.rapidcitydiocese.org Click on the Youth page, then on Movie Reviews, then on Movies Coming Soon.

Level II Separated & Divorced Support Group, "Happiness is an Inside Job"

This is an eight-week, non-denominational support group using John Powell's book by the same name. The group is designed to help those who are separated or divorced to deepen their healing experience and find new meaning and purpose in their lives. Previous Level I attendance is helpful but not required. Join us at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10, at St. Therese's. The book and registration fee is $38.00. For more information, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Bereavement Support Group

This is an eight-week, non-denominational support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The group begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 28, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City. Please come early to register. For more information call Janece Rieman at 343-5547.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

Join us Saturday, January 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Anthony's in Hot Springs. This is a requirement for engaged couples, and also an enriching learning experience for married couples, or anyone wanting to know more about natural family planning. For more information, or to register, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Vocation Discernment Weekend January 4-6, 2008

Join the Little Sisters of the Poor in Palatine, Illinois for a weekend of prayer and reflection. Open to single women 18-35 years of age who want to explore the possibility of a religious vocation. There is no charge for the retreat, and funds for travel assistance are available. For information, call (847) 219-2430 or go to vocationinfo@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Saturday Night Alive Singles

December 15 at 5:15 p.m. — Caroling at Clarkson Mountain View Health Care Facility, 1015 Mountain View Road.
December 31 at 7:30 p.m. — New Year's Eve party at Darcie Decker's, 3931 Maple Avenue.
January 5 at 7:00 p.m. — *Facing the Giants* movie night at Christian Life Ministries, 1948 N. Plaza Drive.
Contact Darcie, 342-6177 or Laurel, 545-4852 www.SaturdayNightAliveSingles.com

Dinner Down Under!

Come join us for the Newman Center's Dinner Down Under and game day, Sunday, December 9 at the Cathedral, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will help students attend a college FOCUS retreat in January, and Angela Setera, who will be spending a year in Australia with the NET team.

Playground Monitor Needed

St. Elizabeth Seton School is in need of a playground monitor 11:00-2:00 M-F. You may fill out an application at the school office at 431 Oakland St. If you have any questions call Marie Broz at 348-1477.

For the Ride Home

By Ted Berg

Scripture

•Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide (Isaiah 11:3).
•For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him (Psalm 72:12).
•I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name (Romans 15:9).
•His food was locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4).

Reflection

•How will you simplify your life this Advent?
•What is really important this holiday season?
•How will you prepare for Christ's coming?

We must pray without tiring, for salvation of mankind does not depend on material success but on Jesus alone. (Frances Xavier Cabrini)[1]

Prayer means a launching out of the heart toward God. It means lifting up my eyes, quite simply, to heaven—a cry of grateful love, from the crest of joy or through the trough of despair. It is a vast, supernatural force that opens out my heart and binds me close to Jesus. (Thérèse of Lisieux)[2]

[1]Thigpen, Paul, *A Dictionary of Quotes From the Saints*, (Ann Arbor MI: Servant Publications, 2001, 174.
[2] Ibid., 175.